

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, CG

SUBJECT: U.S. MEDIA COVERAGE OF PARIS MEETING

EXCERPTS FOLLOW FROM ARTICLE ENTITLED "SHORT-TERM ACTION TO HELP ZAIRE IS SET" BY FLORA LEWIS IN JUNE 7 ISSUE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES. QTE:
SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED STATES AND FOUR ALLIED COUNTRIES AGREED YESTERDAY ON SHORT-TERM MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ACTION AIMED AT KEEPING ZAIRE FROM COLLAPSE, PARTICIPATING DIPLOMATS SAID TODAY.
MEMBERS OF SEVERAL DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH WHAT HAD EVIDENTLY BEEN A SERIES OF COMPROMISES, BUT THE FIVE COUNTRIES INVOLVED -- BRITAIN, WEST GERMANY, BELGIUM AND FRANCE AS WELL AS THE UNITED STATES -- DIS-
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AGREED ON HOW TO DEAL WITH LONGER-TERM THREATS OF SOVIET PENETRATION IN AFRICA.
LONG-TERM EFFORTS TO SHORE UP THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU SESE SEKO ARE TO BE TAKEN UP NEXT WEEK AT A LARGER MEETING IN BRUSSELS, WHERE REPRESENTATIVES OF ZAIRE, IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND ARE ALSO TO TAKE PART.

SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MILITARY OFFICIALS FROM THE FIVE COUNTRIES ATTENDED THE HASTILY ARRANGED ONE-DAY

SESSION HERE. IT WENT ON UNTIL WELL AFTER MIDNIGHT, ENDING WITH A COMMUNIQUE SAYING THE PARTICIPANTS HAD AGREED ON CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS, BUT THESE WERE NOT DEFINED.

DIPLOMATS SAID THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS DEALT WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR FLYING, EQUIPPING AND PAYING FOR THE FORCE OF MOROCCAN AND OTHER AFRICAN TROOPS THAT AMERICAN PLANES HAVE STARTED FLYING TO ZAIRE'S SOUTHERN SHABA PROVINCE TO HELP PREVENT FURTHER ATTACKS LIKE THE INVASION LAST MONTH BY INSURGENTS BASED IN NEIGHBORING ANGOLA. ALSO INVOLVED WAS EMERGENCY FINANCIAL AID.

BUT SPECIFIC DETAILS ON WHO IS PAYING FOR WHAT AND HOW MUCH WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

EQUIPMENT, SUPPORT AND PAY FOR THE OTHERS WERE PROBLEMS NOT YET FULLY RESOLVED, HOWEVER. INITIALLY, FRANCE, BELGIUM AND WEST GERMANY WERE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE FOR THEM. BUT DIPLOMATS SAID THEY COULD NOT EVEN ESTIMATE A FIGURE FOR THE OVERALL COST OF WHAT WOULD BE DONE AFTER THE FIRST PERIOD. AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID THAT NO TIME LIMIT HAD BEEN SET ON MAINTENANCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORCE. ITS BASIC MISSION, THE DELEGATES AGREED WAS FIRST OF ALL TO RESTORE ENOUGH CONFIDENCE AMONG FRIGHTENED EUROPEANS IN SHABA SO THAT THEY WOULD REMAIN AT THEIR VITAL

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POSTS IN THE PROVINCE'S MINING OPERATIONS. SINCE NO ONE CAN BE SURE WHETHER THE INTER-AFRICAN FORCE WILL ACHIEVE THIS ON ITS OWN, THE FRENCH AGREED TO LEAVE SOME OF THEIR PARATROOPERS IN THE AREA INDEFINITELY ALTHOUGH THE OTHERS WERE REPATRIATED TO CORSICA BY THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THIS WEEK.

THE FORCE'S SECOND MISSION WAS TO RESTORE SELF-CONFIDENCE, AND THEREFORE DISCIPLINE, AMONG ZAIRE'S TROOPS IN THE HOPES THAT THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ABLE TO KEEP ORDER WITHOUT OUTSIDE MILITARY HELP.

EUROPEAN PARTICIPANTS SAID THE UNITED STATES HAD AGREED TO HELP SO FAR AS IT COULD WITHOUT REQUIRING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. THE AMERICAN OFFICIAL, WHO REQUESTED ANONYMITY, STRESSED THE UNWILLINGNESS OF CONGRESS AND UNITED STATES PUBLIC OPINION TO ACCEPT ANY AMERICAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT. ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, THE DELEGATES DISCUSSED URGENT NEEDS OF FOOD, FUEL AND SPARE PARTS TO KEEP ZAIRE GOING FOR THREE TO SIX MONTHS, AND ESTIMATED THAT IT WOULD REQUIRE AN IMMEDIATE INFUSION OF ABOUT \$50 MILLION. THE COUNTRY'S OUTSTANDING DEBT WAS REPORTED TO BE \$3 BILLION. WITH DEBT RESCHEDULING AND LONG-TERM AID TO BE TAKEN UP AT THE BRUSSELS MEETING NEXT WEEK, THEY SAID THE FIVE

COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU WILL HAVE TO
ACCEPT SOME "POLITICAL CONTENT" IN THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY
PROGRAM.

WHILE MOST OF THE DIPLOMATS SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN THIS
IN TACTFUL TERMS, SOME SAID FLATLY THAT IT MEANT ACCEPTANCE
OF OUTSIDE EXPERTS AND ADVISERS WHO WOULD, IN EFFECT,
OVERSEE THE COUNTRY'S ADMINISTRATION. ONE SAID THAT ALL
PARTICIPANTS HAD AGREED THAT MR. MOBUTU HAD TO BE GIVEN
ONE MORE CHANCE BECAUSE THERE SIMPLY WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO
HIM AS PRESIDENT, BUT ALSO THAT HE WOULD BE MADE TO UNDER-
STAND THAT IT WAS HIS LAST CHANCE AND THAT HE HAD NO
CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT SUPERVISION.

FRANCE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE MEETING, ITS REPRESENTA-
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TIVES SAID. THEY EXPLAINED THAT PART OF THE REASON WAS
THAT OTHERS INVOLVED HAD COME AROUND TO THE PARIS GOVERN-
MENT'S VIEW THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU MUST BE SUPPORTED ONCE
AGAIN. VANCE

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